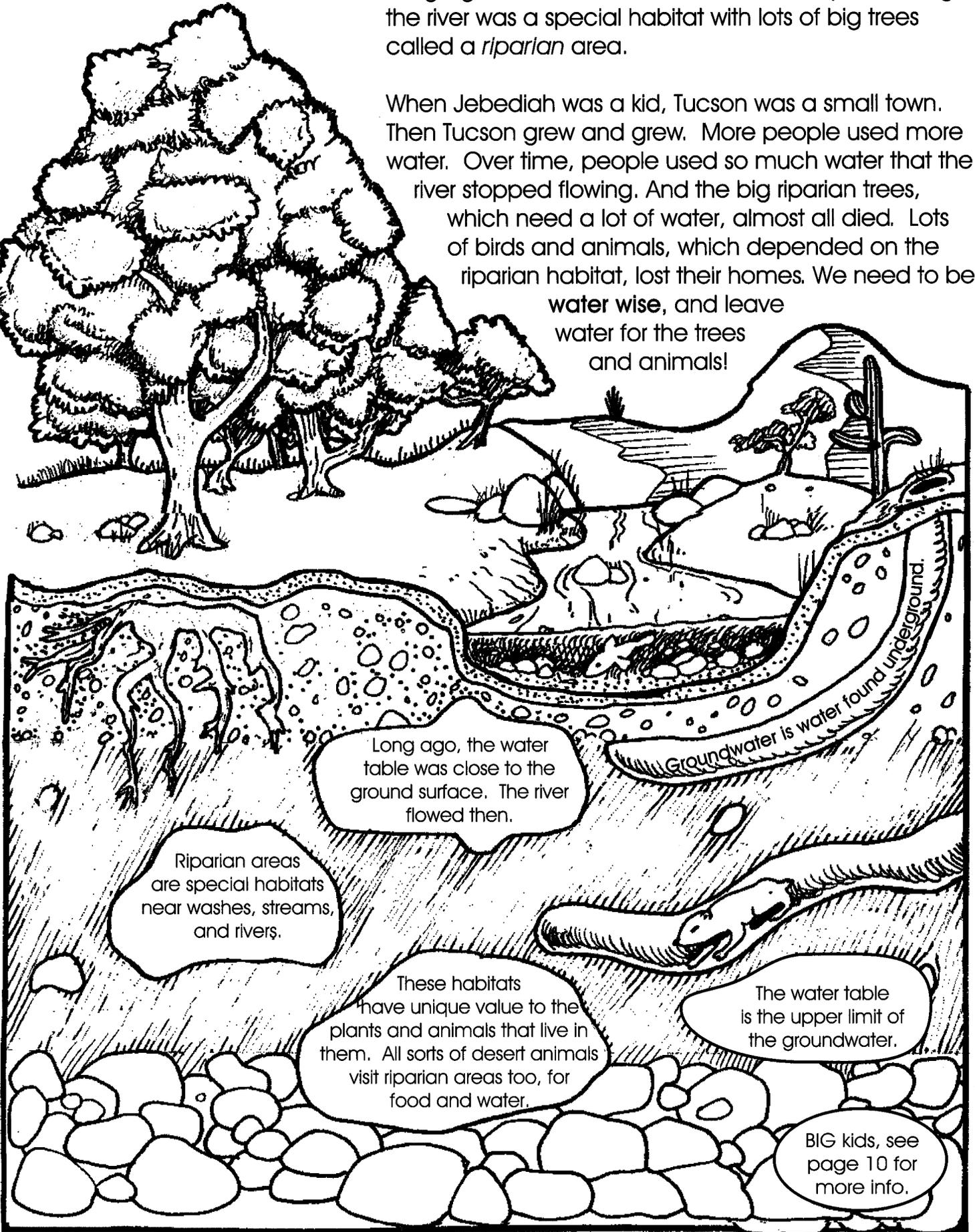


Tucson is a desert town, there's limited water to go around!

Long ago, the Santa Cruz River flowed all year. Along the river was a special habitat with lots of big trees called a *riparian* area.

When Jebediah was a kid, Tucson was a small town. Then Tucson grew and grew. More people used more water. Over time, people used so much water that the river stopped flowing. And the big riparian trees, which need a lot of water, almost all died. Lots of birds and animals, which depended on the riparian habitat, lost their homes. We need to be

water wise, and leave water for the trees and animals!



Long ago, the water table was close to the ground surface. The river flowed then.

Riparian areas are special habitats near washes, streams, and rivers.

These habitats have unique value to the plants and animals that live in them. All sorts of desert animals visit riparian areas too, for food and water.

The water table is the upper limit of the groundwater.

BIG kids, see page 10 for more info.